

**SUPPORT HB 5416** (section 2): Would ban gestation crates

**SUPPORT SB 445** (“puppy mill bill”): With additional requirements

- 1) No new pet shops shall sell commercially-bred dogs
- 2) For current pet shops, a phase-out of the sale of commercially-bred dogs. *This addition is vital to combat the puppy mill trade.*

**OPPOSE HB 5080:** Sunday bow-hunting for deer

To Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee:

I am grateful to you for providing this opportunity to speak for Connecticut’s animals.

In support of **HB 5416**, providing minimum protection from barbaric animal husbandry practices is so overdue.

In support of **SB 445**, regulation does not work! For more than 50 years, probably every national media outlet has broadcast or published multiple horrific exposes of the pet store-puppy mill industry. For decades, the largest and most powerful animal welfare charities, and state charities in states which produce the most puppy mill puppies, have attempted to achieve serious oversight and reasonably humane minimum standards of care.

Yet: Legally required minimum standards of care remain gravely inadequate, remarkably, extraordinarily backward in contrast to community norms. Yet we know that routinely even these mere survival standards are violated. Please please imagine your own dog living thus. It is in your power to reduce this trade by supporting HB 445 with the inclusions above.

In opposition to **HB 5080**,

- Any hunting on Sunday whatsoever is as ill-advised as it has always been.
- Can’t the 99% of the state’s population who don’t hunt have at least one day a week to hike without fear or enjoy their own backyards without fear?
- So-called safety regulations for bow and arrow are ludicrous, not remotely adequate to protect people from being killed, blinded, or otherwise maimed.
- Archery is the cruelest form of hunting--read hunters magazines to learn what hunters themselves say!
- Why in 2014 would we expand such opportunities? That would be moving in the wrong direction in terms of public attitudes toward animals.
- It is false science to maintain that such hunting would limit the population growth of deer. The opposite is true: Hunted populations are more fertile, so a rebound effect results in even more deer.

Thank you so very much for considering my testimony.

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